



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education
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www.sde.idaho.gov

Media contact:
Melissa McGrath
(208) 332-6818
mmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov

HOUSE APPROVES PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE IN IDAHO

BOISE – The Idaho House today approved Senate Bill 1110, which will implement pay-for-performance across the state of Idaho. The legislation is one piece of the Students Come First education reform package introduced by Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter.

“This bill is another monumental step toward reforming our public education system,” Superintendent Luna said. “With this bill, Idaho now has the most comprehensive statewide pay-for-performance plan in the country. This legislation is all about recognizing and rewarding our great teachers for the outstanding work they do every day.”

Superintendent Luna added, “We can’t stop here. We must also reform our classrooms to ensure every student has access to a highly effective teacher every year and the best educational opportunities available.”

Two other bills make up the Students Come First reform package. The House approved Senate Bill 1108 on Tuesday, and it is now headed to the Governor’s desk. Superintendent Luna is still working closely with the Senate and Governor Otter on changes to the third bill, which addresses classroom reforms by stabilizing the public schools budget, investing in teacher base salaries, and infusing more technology in the classroom.

Through Senate Bill 1110, which was approved today, teachers will have the opportunity to earn up to \$8,000 a year in bonuses in addition to their base salary. The plan was crafted by Superintendent Luna and all educational stakeholders, including the Idaho Education Association, Idaho School Boards Association, Idaho Association of School Administrators, Idaho Superintendents’ Association, Idaho Business Coalition for Education Excellence, Idaho State Board of Education and the Governor’s Office.

The pay-for-performance plan awards teachers for working in hard-to-fill positions, taking on leadership duties, or working in a school that shows academic growth year over year. The local school district will determine the hard-to-fill positions, leadership positions, and local student achievement goals that are eligible for awards each year. The state will award additional bonuses for student achievement on a schoolwide basis so if a school meets academic targets for growth or overall achievement in a year, all certified staff in the building will receive a bonus.

The plan will go into effect in the 2012-2013 school year. The details of the pay-for-performance plan and the rest of the Students Come First reform package are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/studentsComeFirst/>.

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